

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 /061 W
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1070
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO FPA WASHDC
ALL NATO CAPITALS
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 04269

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: FURTHER COMMENT ON
LTDP COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (2D REVISION)

REFS: (A) USNATO 4220 DTG 251820Z APR 78, (B) STATE 101661
DTG 210116Z APR 78, USNATO 4239 DTG 261132Z APR 78, NOTAL
SUMMARY: FURTHER TO REF A, WE OFFER A FEW ADDITIONAL
THOUGHTS FOR WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION IN PROVIDING
GUIDANCE ON THE PARAGRAPHS THAT THE US WOULD LIKE
ADDED TO THAT PORTION OF THE LTDP COMPREHENSIVE REPORT
GOING TO THE SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ADVANTAGE OF USING THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
FROM REF B IS THAT IT CONTAINS EXPLICIT REFERENCE
TO SELECTED, SPECIFIC PROGRAMS THAT THE US WOULD LIKE
TO HIGHLIGHT, E.G., FORMATION OF ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN
RESERVE COMBAT BRIGADES AND DESIGNATION OF
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PROGRAM COORDINATOR. RETENTION OF THIS
LANGUAGE, IN BRACKETS, WOULD PROVIDE A CONVENIENT
PLATFORM FOR SECRETARY BROWN TO USE IN DRIVING HOME
TO HIS COLLEAGUES THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO
THESE MEASURES AND, AS LANGUAGE NOT AGREED, WOULD TEND
TO INSURE THAT THE OTHER DEFENSE MINISTERS COME TO
THE MEETING PREPARED TO DISCUSS THOSE MATTERS.

2. THE DISADVANTAGE OF GOING WITH THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE IS THAT IT COULD BE REJECTED BY ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS AND, SINCE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS NOT A DRAFTING SESSION, THERE IS A RISK THAT THE PAPER FOR THE SUMMIT WOULD HAVE NO REPEAT NO PARAGRAPHS CALLING SPECIFICALLY FOR ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROGRAMS FOR RESERVE MOBILIZATION, MARITIME POSTURE, AIR DEFENSE, C3, AND RATIONALIZATION, UNLESS THE DEFENSE MINISTERS INCLUDING SECRETARY BROWN ARE PREPARED TO SEND THE US LANGUAGE UP TO THE SUMMIT AS BRACKETED US TEXT.

3. THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF GOING WITH OUR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ABOVE COIN, BUT WITH SOME NUANCES. WE BELIEVE THE US WOULD BE ON VERY FIRM GROUND IN ARGUING FOR INCLUSION OF THE MODIFIED PARAGRAPHS AND WOULD ATTRACT A GOOD AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATIONS. UNLESS WE FLOAT THE REVISED LANGUAGE WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, HAVE A BETTER GAUGE OF HOW THE US MIGHT MAKE OUT, BUT WE ESTIMATE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN FOR THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE.

4. THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGE OF USING THE MODIFIED LANGUAGE IS THE ABSENCE OF EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEASURES THE US WANTS HIGHLIGHTED. HOWEVER, IF THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE IS THE HARD FAST BALL, THE MODIFIED LANGUAGE IS THE SLOW CURVE THAT WOULD SLIDE PAST DEFENSE MINISTERS AND UP TO THE SUMMIT FOR ENDORSEMENT OF WHATEVER IS APPROVED AT ANNEXES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE CURRENT PARAGRAPH IN ANNEX C ON ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN BRIGADES FOR THE LONG-TERM, OR SOMETHING NEAR IT, IS APPROVED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WOULD ENDORSE THAT MEASURE AS PART OF THEIR EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF ALL THE RESERVE MOBILIZATION PROGRAMS AS A WHOLE, AS CALLED FOR IN THE MODIFIED LANGUAGE. LIKEWISE, WHATEVER MINISTERS APPROVE ON PROGRAM COORDINATORS IN THE ANNEXES WOULD RECEIVE SUMMIT ENDORSEMENT. QUITE OBVIOUSLY, DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL APPROVE NOTHING FOR THE PAPER FOR THE SUMMIT THAT THEY HAVE NOT FIRST APPROVED IN THE ANNEXES. THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING TEXT THAT IS NOT AGREED MAY BE A DUBIOUS PROPOSITION, SINCE SECRETARY BROWN CAN WEIGH IN ON WHATEVER ISSUE HE LIKES, WHETHER IN THE PAPER OR NOT, AND CAN CERTAINLY REINFORCE WHATEVER IS ALREADY IN THE PAPER, AGREED OR NOT. IN ADDITION, IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT HIS

COLLEAGUES WILL BE WELL BRIEFED ON POTENTIAL ISSUES
IN A PAPER FOR THE SUMMIT WHETHER THE EXACT LANGUAGE
IS AGREED OR NOT. IN ANY EVENT, WE COULD WELL HAVE
BRACKETED LANGUAGE AT LEAST ON THE PROGRAM COORDINATORS
IN THE ANNEXES GOING TO DEFENSE MINISTERS.

5. A POSSIBLE APPROACH AT THE MAY 2 EWG WOULD BE
FOR US TO A) START BY TESTING THE WATER FOR SUPPORT
FOR THE ORIGINAL FORMULATION; B) IF WE MEET STUBBORN
RESISTANCE, MODIFY THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BY REMOVING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 04269

THE OBJECTIONABLE PORTIONS OR AMENDING THEM, E.G.,
BY CHANGING SINGLE MANAGER TO PROGRAM COORDINATOR;
AND IF THE LANGUAGE STILL WILL NOT FLY, FALL BACK
TOWARD LANGUAGE LIKE THAT WE PROPOSE IN REF A.
HOWEVER, IF WASHINGTON CONSIDERS THE LANGUAGE OF REF A
WOULD PRODUCE A BETTER RESULT THAN WHITTILING DOWN THE
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF REF B, WE COULD GO STRAIGHT FROM
A) TO C).

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6. ON A RELATED MATTER, IN REF A WE REPORTED ASYG
MUMFORD'S COUNSEL AGAINST SPRINGING NEW TEXT ON
PERMREPS AT THEIR MAY 8 MEETING. DSYG PETRIGNANI
HAS ECHOED THIS COUNSEL IN HIS NOTE ANNOUNCING THE
MAY 2D EWG MEETING (REF C). PERMREPS WILL NOT BE

ABLE TO AGREE NEW TEXT WITHOUT REFERRAL TO CAPITALS,
AND WE NOTE THAT ALLIED MINISTRIES WILL HAVE ONLY SIX
WORKING DAYS BETWEEN THE PERMREPS MEETING AND THE
EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING. BENNETT
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